

accumulated amendments made thus far to all of the remaining claims in the case are included in the first claim presentation. Therefore, the first claim presentation is believed to represent all of the remaining claims after having first accomplished the instant amendments, if any.

The second claim presentation includes only those claims that are being amended by this response. Please amend the claims in accordance with the changes that are shown, the added words being underlined and the deleted words being in brackets.

Please add new **CLAIM 5**, as follows:

**A. First claim presentation of all remaining claims in their final machine-readable form.**

1. In an electrical system of power distribution for use with railroad passenger cars having a receptacle connector that includes an elastomeric lip, the combination with said receptacle connector of a support ring embedded in the elastomeric lip and wherein said support ring includes a

raised portion that extends around at least a portion of the circumference thereof.

2. A rigid support ring molded into an elastomeric connector lip of a railroad receptacle connector, comprising:

(a) means for providing a rigid support ring adapted for insertion into said elastomeric connector; and

(b) wherein said support ring includes at least one edge thereof that includes an outer radius and wherein said support ring includes a raised portion that extends around at least a portion of said outer radius along a circumference thereof.

4. A method for forming an elastomeric receptacle connector for use in supplying electrical power to a railroad car, which comprises the steps of:

(a) placing a support ring proximate a lip of said receptacle connector wherein said support ring includes

a raised portion that extends around at least a portion of a circumference thereof: and

(b) surrounding at least a portion of said support ring with an elastomer.

5. A rigid support ring molded into an elastomeric connector lip of a railroad receptacle connector, comprising:

(a) means for providing a rigid support ring adapted for insertion into said elastomeric connector;

(b) wherein said support ring includes at least one surface thereof that includes an outer radius and wherein said support ring includes a raised portion that extends around at least a portion of said outer radius along an outer circumference thereof; and

(c) wherein when said support ring is disposed in said elastomeric connector, said support ring is surrounded by an elastomer on an inside circumference, on both of a pair of sides that are generally perpendicular with respect to said inside circumference, and wherein said support ring is surrounded by said elastomer on said

outer circumference where said raised portion is absent.

**B. Second claim presentation of the instant amendments only.**

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5. (Newly Added) A rigid support ring molded into an elastomeric connector lip of a railroad receptacle connector, comprising:

(a) means for providing a rigid support ring adapted for insertion into said elastomeric connector;

b2 (b) wherein said support ring includes at least one surface thereof that includes an outer radius and wherein said support ring includes a raised portion that extends around at least a portion of said outer radius along an outer circumference thereof; and

(c) wherein when said support ring is disposed in said elastomeric connector, said support ring is surrounded by an elastomer on an inside circumference, on both of a pair of sides that are generally perpendicular with